

FONS SANITATIS: X  
Or the  
HEALING SPRING  
AT  
WILLOW BRIDGE  
IN  
Stafford-shire.

Found out by the Right Honourable  
the Lady JANE GERARD  
Baroness of BROMLEY.

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Published for the Common Good,  
By SAMUEL GILBERT,  
Chaplain to Her Honour, and Rector of *Quatt*.

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This WELL having been of Happy Consequence to all its Neighbouring Diseased Persons, and many Strangers, to whom Its Infant Fame hath (but yet) lisped its Virtues.

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*With Allowance.*

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LONDON,  
Printed for the Author, Anno Dom. 1673.

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The Epistle to the

R E A D E R.

*Reader.*

**I**F the Noise of these Waters have not sounded in your Ears, the following Catalogue of some few of the many Cures done by it, are withall truth and integrity made publick, many amazing effects of it being lost through the neglect of enquiring the Persons, Names and Places, where they Live: And though this Excellent Water be but in its infancy, being but lately discovered; yet 'tis found a Physitian, not inferiour to many that have taken their degree: And as good

## *To the Reader.*

a Chirurgion and Occulift, as those that have served an Apprentiship: As also a Farrier, which my love to that Species of Creatures makes me insert, for Curing several Maladies in Horses.

To shew how universally Restorative these Waters are to Debilitated Limbs, it hath been often experimented, that they not only extend the contraction, but contract and comfort the relaxation of feeble Nerves and Sinews, even to admiration. And in an incredible short time; which is performed by Drinking and Bathing, although it be a Cold-Water, against which some may object; yet methinks 'tis no unreasonable to answer; That that temper improves this virtue in it, by incensing the natural heat, which makes it return to the extream part with greater vigour, and so to procure an equal circulation of the Blood, And 'tis believed they will hardly fail, where repletion is not wanting.



## *To the Reader.*

It Heals all Foul Scabs, and Ulcers, Scald-heads, the Kings-evil, Scales Bones; and heals by Extracting, and Cleansing the humours that cause the Malady. And is an incomparable Remedy for Swellings in any part; and gives immediate Ease to Aches and Pains, and Palsies. And by Drinking and Bathing, Cures Scorbutick and Dropecal Distempers, the Stone, the Collick and the Rickets; yet of flowing not mercenary administrations.

I have heard 'tis a Maxime: That no Mineral lyes single, but certainly this may pretend to come from a singular composition of them, by its Sanative operations: So excelling all I have heard of. And it is hoped, and believed, there is no cause to fear it should loose its Vertue, it being not a lean barren Spring, as most other Medicinal Waters; but a Stream so plentiful as it is enough to turn a Mill.

But although I shall not pretend to Determine whether it be armed to encounter and subdue Diseases, by run-

## To the Reader.

ning thorough Iron and Steel, or what other Mineralls: For I assure you 'tis no Philosopher Writes to you; yet able to give you this truest and best reason for their virtues, *viz.* Because the great Preserver hath given to the gift of Healing, to whom be Eternal Praise.

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'Tis farther added for the Information of the Reader.

Reader.

**T**He Fame that is spread abroad of this Well, by those that have had the fortune to use it, is not unknown to many, nor the Malice neither of some Persons to all Mankind but themselves; no marvail then if exercised against the reputation of this Water that is so much for their benefit: I wish such have not occasion to make use of it, as some of the like stamp have done, that have cryed it down in publick, and for the Curing of their own Distempers make use of it in private;

## To the Reader.

vate; with such success as to perform what all their Choiceſt-Medicaments have fail'd in. Like many Phyſitians, forbidding that to others, which they uſe themſelves.

It being indeed the Intereſt of the leſs Generous minded, both Phyſitians and Surgeons, to beat down the fame of Cures done by this Water, to inhaſe their own Advantage, though to the utter ruine of many Diſeaſed Perſons.

But we need not ſpend the Readers, nor our own time in vindicating this Well from the aſperſion of ſuch, or indeed of any: It is ſufficiently able by the daily effects of its Virtues produce, to waſh off all ſpallings, and raiſe its own fame above all the noted Springs we have yet heard of: Of which you'll be farther ſatisfied by peruſing the annexed and true account that we could take of ſome Cures performed by it, that indeed would be beyond belief, were there not good authority for them.

Nor would thus much as hath been ſaid; did not the glory of God lie buried in our ſilence, which of all things we ought

## To the Reader.

to be most concern'd for: Shall so great a mercy as this Healing Well be slighted? and his goodness not extolled? Shall we be Cured by it, and he not Praised; the way purely not by concealing his mercies in the wondrous effects of it, much less by eclipsing them. As his mercies shine openly and run freely, so let our acknowledgement too, and not be clouded by derogating either from the Author, or means, by which he conveys so great a health to us.

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Some-

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*Something Concerning Water in  
General.*

*Of the Original, and the Reasons of  
the several Virtues of Springs :  
With an account of the Healing  
Spring, in Willowbridge-Park  
in Stafford-Shire.*

**A**N exact Philosophical and Physical  
Treatise of Water in General, or in  
particulars; Sea, River, Rain, or  
Spring-Water, was never the Intention of  
the Writer: which though not wholly out  
of his road, yet out of his compass of time  
to perform, wanting all sorts of suitable  
Conveniences. But such light touches that  
from his own reason fell in his way to this  
Spring, stands in yours to the account of  
some Cures it hath performed, giving in-  
couragement to some Pen more ingeniously  
Industrious to give better satisfaction, of  
the admirable Virtues of this Well.

*Hypocrates* (that great Master of reason,  
and Prince of Physicians, (as some term him,  
not unworthily) affirms, that Water and Fire  
are the two Principles of life; giving (as well  
he may) water the preheminance, under-  
standing

standing thereby our Radical Moisture, which is of such absolute necessity, that neither sensitive or vegetive creatures subsistence can be propt without it: For by its deprivation, the one presently grows Hectical, the other Withers and decays.

And is fitly placed before Fire, Aire, or Earth, for it extinguishes the first, changes the second into its self, and devoureth the last. The most mundane beings running the race of nature without Fire, but none without Water. As we are abundantly beholding to that Element in our composition and subsistence ( having chiefest regard to the grandest power, God Almighty in the formation and upholding of all things. ) So for the rectifying of the motions of the internal Machins of our Microcosmus's, and the repairing those breaches in the walls thereof that our irregularities have made. Witness the advantage we have by Water in general, but more by many particular Springs, whose use is excellent for particular Distempers: but mostly for this Spring, the occasion of what is hear made publick, since God hath been pleased so to bless it, and us with having the advantage of it, as to inforce it with such virtues, as to be a Catholicon (if rightly used) for most (if not all) Diseases in Man, or Beast.

This Spring was first taken notice of, and se-  
ve.

veral experiments tryed with it, by the most Ingenious and true *vertuosa*, the Right Honourable Lady *Jane Gerard*, Baroness of *Bromley*, of *Sandon* in *Stafford-shire*, whose Charitable care and charge, in damming it out from the common Water, into which it delivered it self, (a large Pool through which the River *Terne* runs, taking its beginning about half a mile above it,) causing it to be divided into two large Baths; the one for Men, the other for Horses. In both which the Spring rises with great force in several places. And building a fair four-square Stone Conduit at the head of the Springs to preserve water pure and clear for Drinking: Intending also to build a Row of Rooms for the conveniency of poor people to lodge in; and an Undressing Room for persons of Higher Ranks that shall have occasion for Bathing there, declaring the Nobleness of her Spirit, in such her concern for the Publick benefit of all Diseased persons, without the least glance on self-interest: But the satisfaction of being useful to others.

This well is distant a quarter of a mile from *Willowbridge* Lodge (the finest seated, and best compacted house of that nature) in the parish of *Ashely*, two miles and a half off that famous house of *Bromley* in *Stafford-shire* (both possessed by that Honourable Lady before mentioned, the Inheritance of her

her incomparable Son: The Right Honourable *Digby Lord Gerard*, Baron of *Gerards Bromley*, Lord of *Dutton* of most noble parts as well as large fortunes. ) Three miles from *Drayton* in *Shrop-Shire*, five miles from *Newcastle* underline, six miles from *Eccleshall*, seven miles from *Nantwich*, nine miles from *Newport*, nine miles from *Stoue*, eleven miles from *Stafford*, all Market Towns of Note; and is Eastwardly from the Lodge, in a valley surrounded by several rises of ground. The River *Terne* on the North, and *Willowbridge Parke* on the South, on the same side lyes: *Ashley-Heath* about a mile distant, which hath been reputed by the ablest Artist's in King *Jame's* time (the Learned *Cambden*) to be the highest ground in *England*, and from whence 'tis supposed this Spring comes flowing through at its breakings out, or off the face of a large Bed of good and hard Building Stone.

Before we come to the wondrous effects of this Spring, 'twill be satisfactory to some less knowing, to be inform'd of the original of all Springs; for whose satisfaction I declare in short, (without mentioning the many opinions about it; and their Authors Discourses *Pro*, and *Con*, meerly to shew their mastery of misterious words.)

That all Springs undoubtedly come from the Sea, through Meandring veins and porosi-



rositous passages of the Earth, forced through them even to or over the tops of Mountains, and to their breakings out in so many places by that great weight of water that lyes behind them, pressing them forward; and are clarified from the Sea Salt-ness in their passage: Good \* autho \* *Lord* rity affirming, that pits dug near the *Bacon*. Sea, the water that soaks into them, by that means becomes fresh.

Now the nature of the Spring, is suitable to the Qualities of that Earth, or Minerals through which by its many turnings and windings in its passage through the bowels of the Earth it runs; carrying with it either faculty, or substance, or both.

Some Springs (as this we treat of) out of the subteraneal substances attract faculties to each other, as those substances they pass through. Which solves the Question of the Curious enquirer, why the same Spring should Cure divers Diseases, and they contrary, or having but small kin to each other; as many simples compounded together of natures repugnant to each other, having had their due fermentation, working so upon one another, as to become incorporated, with a concatenation of their virtues; may occasion the same Question, yet produce in its effects a rare Medicine for most Diseases. and as it is most powerful against those for  
which

which there was a greater quantity of suitable Simples in the composition. So is each Spring of the greater force and quicker dispatch in the Curing those Distempers, for which those Minerals it last and most run through his, proper.

The virtues this Spring last participated, is conceived to be Sulphur and Nitre by its Coldness, and driving out an internal Malady to the extreame parts of the body, and its Balsamick virtue in healing it, and all sorts of Soars whatever, that it with its virtues can reach either Internal, or External.

The Taste of this Water is extremely pleasant to most, near to that of new milk mixed with common Spring water. But can give no plausible reason of the contrary and bitter relish it hath left on the Palates of some few, that have given mean account thereof.

This Water is free from any manner of Tincture, but of a Christal clearness, some whereof standing but a little time in a clear Glass, which I often for satisfaction tryed, left a thick Oyly fœces all over the Glass. A quantity of it being exhæled over the fire, there hath remained a substance of the thickness and colour of Honey; but we were debilitated for making Chymical experiments of it for want of suitable Utensils: would but an Artist bestow some pains upon it, 'twould certainly require his pains, and he thereby find

find out the reasons of, and confirm those that (are not eye witnesses) may doubt its vertues.

What this Water performs, you are informed in the Epistle to Reader, by a Right Honourable, and though Female, yet a Pen of more than a Masculine strain and vivacity, proceeding from so ready a Phaucis at all times, that the richness thereof flows as much faster than she can write (though an incredible swift hand) as this Spring outdoes the belief of many. Therefore the dull account I might have given, would have seemed like flatest Water after the briskest VVine.

However before we come to the Alphabetical account of the few of those many Cures it hath done since Spring was a twelvemonth: Those persons that desire to make tryal of this VWater, that are not able to see a Physician for better advice, are desired to follow these brief and easie rules

First, Rightly to consider the nature of their Distemper, and which way the water must work to Cure them, and to take something that may prepare their Bodies for it, to facilitate its operation; though few that methodically use the water, and have time so to do, will stand in need thereof.

Secondly, that they Drink two or three days before they Bath, and that in the morning, not overcharging their Stomachs at the  
first

first, but increasing. their draughts every morning, and using if they can, some moderate exercise (as walking) betwixt every three or four Glasses, and when they once find the water to pass freely, by urine, or Stool, they may Drink the more freely. Then whether they have any outward Distemper, or not, to Bath the whole body; the time most proper, in the Morning? and after their drinking the water, not to Dine till they find it clearly passed, which you may know by their Urines, if it be any thing colored when you make it, for till then it will be clear. and if chiefly to work that way, to take heed of provoking sweating, which is a great hindrance of the waters passage by Urine. And if of ability, to drink their two or three first Glasses mixed with White-Wine.

Thirdly, for their Dyer, to be moderate, and avoid all sort of Salt Meats, and if they drink this water in the Evening, which may be done, (but not so proper as in the Morning) to eat little or no Supper, if any; that which is of light Digestion.

Fourthly, that they be not too hasty in leaving this water, but rather for a settled Cure to stay two or three dayes longer than needs, that go on too soon; and for encouragement read this ensuing and Just account as could be taken, of some of the cures done

fin

by this Spring. Many having made use of it, that kept their Distempers as close as they did the benefit they received by it; some stealing the advantage of Bathing in it, when night had spread its sable mantle o're the surface of our hemisphere (thinking the Stars were no Intelligencers) thereby to hinder their Distempers well as Cures coming to appear in open day. Like the ungrateful Lepers, ten Cured, but one found returning Praise.

*Mercies so ill return'd may surely make,  
The Author of them a less Compass take,  
About their Centre; or it should him please,  
His overflowing Springs of Mercies cease.  
That you no more his favours should abuse,  
Since Thanks that easie Tribute you refuse.*

### *Aches.*

1. A Taylor in *Kemberton*, neer *Shifnall* in *Shrop-shire*, was so diseased in his Shoulders and Armes with extream pain, that he could not work at his Trade, nor put on, or off his Cloaths without help: coming to this Well, with one with him to help him to Dress and Undress; the first night with Bathing in the water was able to do it himself:

B

And

And stayed no longer, receiving in that small time a perfect Cure; being now as able to work as ever: Attested by

Mrs. *Frances Wildie* in  
*Church-Eaton, Stafford-shire.*

2. *Elizabeth Oakely* of *Shrewsbury*, pained in her Shoulders, Armes, Legs, indeed all over; so that she had small use of her Limbs Coming to the Well on Tuesday last, the 4th. of July 1676. and thereby Drinking and Bathing the remainder of the week: On the Munday following went away perfectly Cured of all her pains.

3. *Mary Wood* of *Ridgley*, in the County of *Stafford*, about nineteen years of Age; having pains as the former, but with a large addition of a Scaby Scurfe all over her body, was in a weeks time Cured of all her pains; her face and body free from her Scurfe, the skin remaining smooth and soft.

4. *John Hancher* of *Knighton* in *Shrop-shire*, middle Aged; for many years tormented with pain in his Head, with Drinking this water, and Bathing his Head therewith sometimes, was perfectly Cured.

5. *Richard Scot* of *Pype-Yate* in *Shrop-shire*, Aged about 50. years, Diseased with extreme

treampain in his Stomach for three years space, having made use of several Physitians, but found no help, till coming to this Well; where by Drinking and Bathing he was perfectly Cured: Attested by

Mr. Thomas Cleyton  
of Onely in Stafford-shire.

6. Mrs. Jane Reynolds of Mucklestone, of 60. years of Age in Stafford-shire, having an extreampain in her Shoulder, running down her Arme to her Fingers; with only Bathing it night and morning for three dayes in this water quite took away the pain.

Taken from her own  
mouth by Samuel Gilbert.

7. Abraham Launder of the Parish of Muckleston, was troubled for twenty years with a pain and weakness in one of his Wrists that he could not bare the weight of a pound therewith; washing in this water three or four times, strengthened his Wrist and took away the pain, so that he was never troubled since.

8. Margery Russel of Offeley in Stafford-shire, Cured of Aches of her Bones and Contractions of Sinnews.

If Aches you have from Cold or Country Caus  
 Nere seek for distant waters York-shire Span  
 Northrow away your Money on each Quak,  
 That loudly of his Skill, on Stage doth Crack,  
 Nor on some Pettycoat Doctresses,  
 One Medicine makes for all Diseases,  
 That speak most honey healing words to please  
 Who of your Money not you pain will ease you,  
 Use then this Water, keep your Coin;  
 Your told for no ones prophet but your own.

### Bitings.

9. Arthur Dickson of Kendal in Westme  
 land, Aged 69. years, having been bitten  
 with a Dog in the Calf of his Leg, so that fi  
 holes reach't the Bone, and in a small tin  
 wid'ned to that breadth, so that there mig  
 be two fingers buried in each of them: B  
 ving before that Accident had (but more e  
 creased since) a great pain in that Leg a  
 Knee. In three weeks time at this well was r  
 leased, of his pain, and his Sores Cured: Tak  
 from his own mouth,

July 13. 1676.

by Samuel Gilbert

### Bloody Flux:

10. The VVife of Edward Hope of Maren  
 Stafford-shire, Diseased with the Bloody Flu  
 fou



*Case* four years; By this Water perfectly Cured;  
*pan* witnessed by,

*Francis Daniel.*

*Bruises.*

*Case* 11. Richard Scot of Pype-Tate in Shrop-  
*yon* shire, about 50. years of Age, being cropping  
 a Tree, received a blow on the Calf of his  
 Leg, that so bruised it, that it became a Sore,  
 that no Chirurghion was able to Cure, though  
 he made use of the best he could get; and  
 lying long under their hands. But a short  
 time Drinking and Bathing in this water, his  
 Leg was perfectly restored to the soundness  
 of the other, and as well able to make use of  
 it as ever. VVitnessed by

*Mr. Thomas Cleyton, of Onely.*

12. A Servant man of Abraham Launder  
 of Pool-hall, near Oare in Shrop-shire, that  
 followed his VVaggon, the VVheel thereof  
 bearing above twenty hundred weight go-  
 ing over his Foot, so crushed it, that he lay  
 under the Chirurgions hands seven weeks  
 with no other hopes of saving his Leg, but  
 by cutting off his Foot: Till Bathing in this  
 water three weeks; was perfectly Cured, and  
 again able to follow the VVaggon as former-  
 ly. Attested by his Master and

*Thomas Tildesly of Bromley*

*What greater crush can there be given,  
 To man, than loose his hopes of Heaven?  
 And pressed down to deeps below;  
 Where Torments are in hottest glow.  
 What greater comfort after this,  
 Than be assur'd of lasting bliss.  
 Though the old Serpent bruised each beel,  
 On his own head the pain will feel.  
 Lets trample there, with mind and body too,  
 No surer way our health for to renew.  
 The Serpents bruises take from off the soul,  
 This Water makes the bodies bruises whole.  
 Though we here than be crush't to greatest pain;  
 This Water Comforts, Heals, gives ease again.  
 With praise to God; Curtail the Serpents tread,  
 Least we trip but on's beel, be on our head.*

### *Burns.*

13. *Samuel Jackson* of *Middle-wich* in *Cheshire*, having very sorely burnt the bottom of his foot, accidentally treading with his bare foot on a red hot Heater of a Smoothing Iron, which burnt near the thickness of it into his Foot: but no Salve being able to heal it for three months time, but rather making it worse. But coming to this VVell, and Bathing in the water about ten dayes; 'tis so healed by it, that some persons it hath been shewn to, are scarce able to discover, where

it was burnt. Taken from his own mouth  
and by the sight of

*Samuel Gilbert.*

14. A Daughter of *John Clarke* of *Aston* in  
*Stafford-shire* five years of Age; the fire catch-  
ing in her Apron and Cloathes, most lamen-  
tably burnt her Belly and one of her Thighs,  
which could not by any means be healed for  
a year and halfe time, till Bathed about a  
dozen times with water fetched from this  
Well. This Attested by her Father to

*Samuel Gilbert.*

*If outward burning here do painful feel,  
And proving Sores as difficult to heal.  
What are the dangerous flames pent up within,  
Still fed with the vast fuel of our sin?  
Which if not quenched here, will ever burn,  
And we as they, and ne'r to ashes turn:  
Seek Cure for both, for their are Springs will do't,  
Unto the first, apply this water to't.  
For th' next, I hope already understood,  
Bath in the never failing Spring Christ's Blood.*

### *Collick.*

51. *Edward Bate* of *Bloor* in *Drayton Parish*  
under *Hales*, *John Northof Ashley*, *William*  
*Gardiner* of *Mare*, *John Twysford* of *Aston by*

Stone; all in the County of *Stafford*, by this water Cured of the VVinde Collick.

16. *Edward Snep* of *Mucklestone*, *Robert Cross* of *Winnington*; both in the County of *Stafford*, Cured by this water of the Stone Collick, witnessed by

*Mr. Thomas Tildesly.*

*Thus bath this water these Diseases Cur'd,  
Let those that make not use of't be inur'd,  
Wilfully to such their distemp'ring pain,  
Whose virtues they'l not try, but will disdain.  
That power that turned water into wine,  
Makes this more worth than richest juice from  
For to this waters turn'd each Medicine. [Vine.*

### *Consumptions.*

17. *Sarah Plimly* of the Parish of *Drayton* in *Shrop-shire*; having been (as judged) in a Consumption for twenty years and more, by Drinking this water, and Bathing, was perfectly Cured: Attested by *Robert Plimly* her Father, living in the Parish and County aforesaid.

18. *Mr. William Plimly* of *Norton* in *Shrop-shire* about forty years of Age; being so far entred into a Consumption, that his Stomack digested nothing that it received, accompanied with a tormenting Stich on his left

left side, occasioned at Sea; the Vessel in which he was being run on the Sands, he continued long wet by being forced to wade to save his life. For his Distemper he could receive no benefit from many Doctors of Physick that he applyed himself to; who all gave him over as irrecoverable. But coming to this VVell last Spring, Drinking thereof, and Bathing only the pained side, it removed the Stich to the other side; which he Bathing and continuing the Drinking of it, it occasioned much Vomiting, sometime gently purging by Stool, but most by Urine, each night taking a Bottle home with him, which he used as before mentioned, so many dayes as but to fill up three weeks: It cleared him of his Stich, regained his Stomach, and restored him to as good a state for health as ever. Attested by himself and Robert Plimly in Drayton Parish in Stafford-shire.

*Great wheedler of poor men to death;  
Mistaking quite thy whispering breath.  
That such deluding thoughts do'st give,  
'Twixt hope and fear thinks still to live.  
Till of a suddain, hopeles they,  
Remove into their beds of clay.  
If you from this consumption cheat,  
Would live, and be in health repleat.  
Consume those vices that controul,  
The health of Body and of Soul."*

*Let th' Graces hand you to this Spring;  
For health, praise to the Author bring.  
Fail not of that unless most basely rude,  
There's no Disease like to Ingratitude.*

19. Mrs. *Joan Maudley* of *Ashburn* in the County of *Darby*: Being Lame of one of her Legs, that she could not without help get in or out of her Bed, by reason of her great pain and contraction of Sinews: being brought to this VVell the. 4<sup>th</sup>. of *July* 1676. and but by Baring till the 11<sup>th</sup>. of the same month, could go so well as to have scarce a discernable halting. *vide*. the Contractions Cured in the Leprosies, in the third of Lameness.

### *Relaxation of Sinews.*

20. A Boy whose name we cannot learn; his Legs hanging as if held together by threds, by reason of the weakness and laxed Ligaments and Sinews not being able to use them: In a short time were strengthened sufficiently to support his body, by Drinking and Bathing at this VVell. Attested by  
Mr. and Mrs. *Wildie*.

### *Dropsies:*

21. *Margaret Tingle* of *Bloor* in *Staffordshire*, having her Legs much swell'd with the Dropsie

Dropſie, by Drinking of the water but once,  
and three or four times Bathing, quite Cured.  
Atteſted by

*Francis Daniel of Bromley.*

22. *Lawrence Key* of the Pariſh of *Stoak* upon *Trent* a ground Collier, being extreemly Hydropical, the humour ſo fell down into his Legs as to ſwell them to a great bulk: But putting them into this water the firſt time, he took them out; there came from all parts of them little Worms, about the bigneſs of Pins heads, very numerous; after them iſſued little drops of water: But by often Bathing brought down the ſwelling, ſtopped thoſe little iſſues, and perfectly Cured him. Taken from his own mouth.

23. *Mary Vicars* of *Knightly*, Cured of a Dropſie. Atteſted by

*Samuel Rhodes.*

24. *John Plimly* of *Madely* in *Stafford-ſhire*, of middle Age, cruelly Diſeaſed with the Dropſie, his Belly ſwell'd bigger than a woman with child at her full time, and his Legs to the bigneſs of a reaſonable mans middle and of a ſtrange colour; brought to this Well in *March* laſt on a Tueſday, and by the Fryday following, with Drinking and Bathing tok down the ſwelling, both of his Belly and Legs; and in nine dayes time Cured him  
that

that he was able to follow his work after his usual manner. Attested by Mrs. Jean Reynald's of Muckleston in Stafford-shire, whose Workman he was, and still is.

*Was ever man delivered so from fear,  
Of Children many, as there's dayes ith' year!  
His Belly should contain, being grown so big;  
'Twas past his power to see, or feel a Leg.  
His Belly like unto the great world seeming,  
Of strange productions ready to be teeming.  
His upper parts with arme on Kembo set,  
Look't like the top of great Dutch juggle; but yet  
His moving Legs and Feet Antipodes,  
Alter'd my thoughts, that it was none of these.  
But that it was Copernicus's world,  
In which Perepaticks late were hurl'd.  
Who suitable unto their lives, might have,  
When past the streights of death, a walking grave.  
Yet by this Water to the view of men,  
Was chang'd into a little world again.  
'Twas little less then miracle each thought,  
A man to Bed of a great Belly brought.  
The quick dispatch of Cure, sure done to show,  
What likeless means can with Gods blessing do.*

### *Kings-Evil.*

29. Mary Ratcliffe of Uttoxiter in Stafford-shire, of middle Age; having had the Kings-Evil for twenty years, in her Face, Shoulders,  
Armes



Armes and Legs ; Drank of the water, and Bathed in it but for nine dayes time, in *April* last, was Cured of that Disease in all the parts before mentioned : But the Issues made in hopes to help her long before, (and nature having some recourse that way) the water too hastily healed up for want of her regular Drinking of it; occasioned some Breakings out, which the water afterwards rectified by three or four dayes Drinking, and once or twice Bathing. Attested by

*Mr. Charles Cotton.*

26. *Mr. Richard Nevill*, of *Richards-Court* near *Stafford* a Lawyer, having a considerable swelling under his Chin, and by the date of it thought it the Kings-Evil, coming by the VVell as he was to journey about twenty Miles farther, dipped his Pocket Hancherchief in it, and applyed it as he rode to the grieved place, which occasioned him so much ease, that he repeated it when he came back, taking one Quart of it home with him, the use of it perfectly Cured him : Affirmed by himself to

*Mr. Thomas Tilsdesley:*

27. A Daughter of *Goodman Brookes* in *Oore-lane* in *Shrop-shire*, Aged about sixteen, Dis-eased with the Kings-Evil, having a swelling on her Breast of long continuance: Bathing  
in

in it but three times dispersed the Humour, and so perfectly Cured her, that she hath had no symptoms thereof since. The first Cure that was publickly noticed. Attested by *William Shaw* a neighbour to the VVell.

28. Two Daughters of Mr. *Brassingtons* of *Karsley* in *Stafford-shire*; one had the Kings-Evil in her Foot, so that she could not wear any Shooe, but go with it lapt about with Cloathes, and scarce able to go then: with Drinking and Bathing nine dayes was Cured. The other being suspected to have the same Distemper in her Knees, having some swellings there, stayed the same time, and both made dance by their Father at their going away, with as much agility as if never distemper'd. April 1676. Attested by  
*Charles Cotton.*

29. *Anne* the Daughter of *William Bracks*, of *Oore* in the Parish of *Muckleston* in the County of *Salop*, Aged about fifteen; Diseased with the Kings-Evil, especially in her Breast which was swelled as big as two Breasts, yet Cured at three times Bathing. Taken from her own mouth by Mr. *Andrew Dorrington* of *Stillinghurst* in *Shrop-shire*.

30. *Jone Grimes* of *Aston* by *Stone*, being to the apprehension of others as well as her self, blinded

blinded by the Kings Evil: This water hath recovered her sight and Cured her of the Kings-Evil. Attested by

*Mr. Thomas Tildesly of Bromly.*

31. *Elizabeth Cliffe* of *Maxfield* in *Cheshire*, having been blind with the Kings-Evil near two years. In six weeks time Cured of the Evil; and is now able to see to follow her Trade of *Burton* making as formerly. Attested by

*Walter Wilson.*

32. *William Rowland* of *Bakerwell* in *Darbyshire*, Cured of the like Distemper.

33. *John Knowles* of *Bridgworth* in *Shropshire*, Cured of the like Distemper. Attested by  
*William Shaw.*

'Mongst our Physitians there are none,  
The Curing this Disease will own.  
They as often tryed, as often fail'd,  
But never any yet assail'd.  
To Conquer it with water here,  
But with few wounds got th' victory clear.  
Though lamely they the on set made,  
Look't pale and wan as if afraid.  
Yet march't away with nimble paces,  
And flying colours in their faces.  
Thus English Mastiffe's fighting bold,  
No force, can their clos'd teeth unfold.

*Till*

*Till in their mouths one water threw,  
 The Combatents they straight with drew.  
 So man with this Disease being joyn'd.  
 Their flesh away in battle pin'd.  
 This water thrown, within, without ;  
 Looses their hold, drives th' evel out.*

### *French-Pox.*

43. A Gentle Woman on the edge of *Cheshire*, whose name I forbear to mention, had the French-pox given her by her Husband : which so seaf'd her secret parts that she could scarce go, and on her Throat and Pallat of her mouth that she could not well be understood what she spoke, bringing her body to a very low ebb of health, very pale and lean: but having been at this Well Bathing and Drinking for three weeks, hath so recover'd her health as to have a rudy Complexion, plumpness and strength of body, with great amendment of Speech. This if occasion offer'd, will be verified by Mr. *Andrew Dorrington* of *Sillinghurst* in *Shropshire*.

*Farewel Cornelius Tub be gone,  
 Here's cleaner Cure for every one,  
 Thou makes men look like parboil'd flesh,  
 But this doth make you clear and fresh.  
 No Pills of Turpentine you need,  
 All medicines this doth far exceed.*

Yet you will find repentant tears,  
 The soul of all diseases clears;  
 Then wash with both, since best for each,  
 Experience may discretion teach.  
 For he that knows the fire will burn;  
 Doth reason Topſie turvie turn.  
 That hath been scorched by its flame,  
 Will venture't play an after game

### Head Scald.

35. Two Children of *Morgan Sbanbrooks* in *Shelton* and over *St. Chads, Salop*, Cured of very grievous Scald-heads, by Drinking and Washing their Heads therewith. Attested by *Mr. Tho. Tildesly!*

36. *Thomas Ward* of *Ebelmarton* in *Blackewell* Parish in *Darby-shire*, and his Brother *Edward Ward*.

37. *Henry Elisson* and *Elen* his Sister of *Stockholms* in *Cheeshire*, in *Kunckorne* Parish, all in near abouts three weeks time, by Drinking and Bathing perfectly Cured of very Sort Scald-heads. Attested by *Samuel Gilbert, &c.*

38. Many more of this nature, which cannot here be set down, through neglect in taking their names at their going away from the Well.

### Lamenefs.

39. *Grace Hollenshead* of *Worſworth* in the County of *Darby*, Cured in few days of a Lameness of her Limbs, and Weakness of

Body Attested by Mr. *Andrew Dorrington* of *Stillinghurst* in *Shropshire*.

40. A Stranger, whose name could not be known, brought to the Well in a Cart, so Lame that he had no use of his lower parts, the water so recovered him, that he left his Cart behind him, and went away from the Well on foot perfectly Cured to the eye of all persons then there Attested by. Mr. and Mrs. *Widie* than of *Willowbridge*.

*Mary Phillips* of *Prees* Parish in *Shropshire*, Lamed of both her Legs, her Armes and Hands, and such a contraction of her Sinews in her hands, that they were kept clutched by it, having the use of neither Armes, Hands, nor Legs, not able to help her self: In a weeks time Drinking and Bathing, she could not only go, but run; and in a fortnights time Cured both Legs, Armes and Hands, of which she hath now the perfect use.

Come make a halt then at this Spring,  
Your Lameness you may thither bring.  
But if you use the water right,  
You'll find, ease profit and delight:  
Better than strong drink will this water,  
Make you to daunce and cut a caper.  
Enabled then to show your honour,  
Make a whole leg unto the Donor.  
What miracles doth from it flow,  
Makes Blind to see, the Lame to go.  
A medicine sure this Age will please,  
When drinking Cures the disease.  
Off with your Glass, nay twenty more;  
'Tis for your health, ne're give it o're

*The greatest Tiplers here make known,  
Though to others health they drink their own:  
Drink freely than, there's none that grutges,  
\*Twil make you sling away your Crutches.*

### *Leprosie.*

42. *Joseph Gennings* of *Crannage* in *Che-shire*, Aged twenty years, Diseased seven of them with a Leprous breaking out all over his Body, from top to toe, not able to go, or scarce stir, the Sinews of his Fingers Tucked up that he had small use of any of them. Drinking and Bathing at this Well a weeks time was able to go half a mile, or more to his lodging, too and fro from the Well; and all his Scabs sheld off, except some few upon his Feet. Eye witnessed by *Samuel Gilbert*, &c. About nine dayes after the same person went thence perfectly clear of his Leprosie, his Fingers extended, and his Body in health.

43. *Edmund Hulme* of *Lickrith* in *Stafford-shire*, Diseased after the same manner as the former, but that he had the use of his Limbs; in three dayes time, Drinking and Bathing, so freed him from Scabs, and kil'd the Distemper, that he would not be perswaded to stay three or four dayes longer, but went away the fourth day after his coming thither, taken from his own mouth, and eye witness by *Samuel Gilbert*.

*Lepers Arm'd Cap a-pee in Scales,  
 whose dreadful sight with horror quales.  
 This water penetrats, and in  
 Piece moles brings off to the naked skin.  
 Make them as sound as th' ever were. ;  
 with child-like softness, smooth and clear.*

### *Fits of the Mother.*

44. *Mrs. Dorothy Cotton of Apen in Stafford-shire*, being much troubled with the above named Distemper, was Cured by Drinking four Glasses of this water at the Well, and taking one or two quart Bottles home with her for that use, and was never troubled since in that kind. Attested by her neighbour  
*Mrs. Wildie.*

### *Palsie.*

45. *Richard Edwards a Black-smith in Mere-lane-end in Stafford-shire*, brought to *Willowbridge* in March last, so Diseased by the Palsie all over his Body, that he was not able to go thence to the VVell without being Lead and supported by two men, under three hours time; having been there about three weeks, Drinking and Bathing, his Palsie was so abated, as to walk it in as short a time as most in health, without support, or resting. Attested by *Mr. Charles Cotton*, and *Mr. and Mrs. Wildie*, then living at *Willowbridge*.

*Rickets*



*Rickets.*

46. A Child of *William Lingard's* three years old, troubled with the Rickets that it could never go a step, having been Bathed in, and Drank of this Water but three dayes, the fourth day could use its Legs, and go three or four yards without holding; in the sight of *Samuel Gilbert* and many others at the VVell.

47. A Son of *Gorings*, or *Golling* of *Cal-low-bill* in *Stafford-shire*, Esq; that would by no means hear talk of any more than ordinary virtue this VVell had, especially of doing his Son any good, that was much weakned with the Rickets, and a great faultring of Speech: was extraordinarily amended in both by some bottles privately sent for of this water, by his mother, with which he was Bathed and of which he Drank: Which his Father marvailing at, alter'd his opinion of this Well, and fears not to be perfect now publickly by this Water, what was so happily, tho against his consent, and privately begun.

We have had many informations of this Disease being Cured in many Children, but till we are assured of the truth, we forbear to mention them.

*Scurvy.*

48. Mrs. *Prudence Crompton* of *Miswich* in the County of *Stafford*, a Gentlewoman of

good Quality ( being as willing to declare, as others, to conceal the mercies of God in this Wells Curing their Distempers ) affirms, that she had the Scurvy in that height that it occasion'd her a sore Leg with four great holes in it, of dangerous consequence. That her Stomach had almost wholly lost its, digestive faculty, and that for thirty five years she Drank nothing but warm Drink, yet the Drinking of this very Cold water no way offended, but rather proved as a Cordial to her weak Stomack, recalling its lost digestion, and by Drinking and Bathing about a weeks time with this water, cleared her of her Scurvy, and Cured her Leg.

49. *Edward Whitfoot* of *Cundever* in *Shropshire*, near *Shrewsbury*, being sorely handled with the Scurvy, which occasioned Scabs and Ulcers for 7 years all over his body; Drinking of, and Bathing in the water of this Spring somewhat about a fortnights time, the latter end of *June*, and beginning of *July*, perfectly Cured him.

50. *Thomas Howel*, Husbandman Aged 70. living in *Drayton* near *Shifnal* in *Shropshire*, having had a stoppage in his Stomach, pain in his belly for half a years time, his blood being putrified, which appeared by the Scurvy he was Diseased with, and breakings out. Coming to this VVell, and Drinking and Bathing, stir'd him not till the third day,  
and

and then it purged him; the 4<sup>th</sup>. day also, the 6<sup>th</sup>. again, after which it bound him for 3. dayes, and in that time drove out all his Distemper to the extreame parts of his body in a violent manner, working by Urine all the while, but continually Drinking and Bathing five weeks in the whole, till this present day July the 7<sup>th</sup>. 76. he is thought to be perfectly Cured of all Deseases but Old Age. Taken from his own mouth at the VVell by

Samuel Gilbert, &c.

51. The VVife of William Gratewood of Croxon of Staffordshire, having her face blistered all over (as she thought) by the Scurvy: some few times washing with this water, Cured her. Attested by William Shaw.

*Never so much did this Distemper reign,  
In all sorts and Sexes from every vein:  
To sad Diseases 'tis the fatal rise,  
Begun, continued, by our acts in vice.  
So never Medicine of such force did prove,  
As this our Epidemick ill, to remove.  
Cleanse thou from sin as this thy body frees,  
From filth 'tis great Physitians only sees.  
Till which thou givest, and so thy part fulfill,  
Scorbutick humours lurk within thee still.*

Soares.

52. A Girl of about 17. years of Age, named Harding of Stondon in Staffordshire, Infirmed with very sore Legs from her Infancy occasioned by the Rickets, or the small Pox, not being by purge carried off, fell down into her

Legs which occasioned her running Soars that could not be Cured, though they used the best means they could, till at the Age above named: she was brought to this VVell, where Drinking of, and Bathing in it for a short time, was perfectly Cured. Attested by Mr. *Greenwood* Rector of *High-Osly*.

53. VVidow *Jackson* of *Norton Underhales* in *Shropshire*, Aged about 70. Infirm with a dangerous sore, so that for 40. years never skinned over, nor could she wear whole shoos or Stocken for all that time: this in a short time the water perfectly Cured. Attested by Mr. *John Bradly* Rector of *Norton*,

54. *Elizabeth* the Wife of *Peter Gilworth* of *Pencle*, near *New-Castle* under *Line*, had a sore Leg that issued Blood for a long time: At the first Bathing took away the pain, and stopped the bleeding, and in one dayes time healed it beyond belief; from her own mouth *Tho. Tildesly* Testis.

55. *Elizabeth Alman* of *Laur Delph* in *Stoak* by *Newcastle* under *Line*, having had a sore Leg with eight holes in it, for three years; by this water was perfectly Cured.

56. *Edward Hanks* a Tanner in *Nampwich*: His man had a sore Leg swelled as big as two for two years time; none of the Chirurgions there being able to Cure him, this water performed it in a Months time.

57. *Robert Daniel* of *Gayburst*, had a sore Leg

Leg with two issues in it for seven years, which no Chirurgion could stop, or Cure: one quart of this water scaled the Bone, stopp'd the Issues, and healed the Soares.

58 *Mary Nevil* of *Charms* in the Parish of *Eccleshall* in the County of *Stafford*, her Legs being Scratched with a Bryer, fester'd near to a Gangreen, for which she lay under the Chirurgions hands for two years, rather made worse then better by them. This water Cured her in ten dayes time: These three last affirmed by *Tbo. Tildesly*.

59. *Henry Cotton*, of *Woodseas* in the Parish of *Higb-Osly*, had a sore Leg, with the addition of a pain in his right Arme; both which were Cured by this water,

*Samuel Roder Testis.*

60. *Dorothy* the Wife of *Francis Moreton* of *Stafford*, grieved with sore Legs 16. years, Cured in one months time, *Testis Wal. Wilson.*

*All sores this sovereign water heals,  
Hundreds more then this book reveals.  
Then throw away your daubs and Salves,  
which seldom Cures you but by th' halves.  
With faith your unbelief controle,  
Then 'tis but Bathing and be whole.  
This Spring bath such rare virtues in't,  
'Tis Surgeon, plaister, probe, and lint.*

### *Swelling.*

61. A young woman of *Darleston* near *Wem* in *Shropshire*, having for many years such a Swelling in her Hands and Feet, that  
neither

neither her Fingers nor Toes could be parted, without Cletts of Wood to force them open: By this water in a short time was perfectly Cured: attested by *James Higgins* of *Newport* Confectioner.

62. Goodman *Shropshire* in *Eccleshall* Parish, living on *Gratwood-beath*, having a gathering on his Hand that disinabled him for doing a dayes work in twenty weeks, all remedies he applyed, not breaking it, untill he came to the VVell, and holding his hand in the water not a quarter of an hour, but off comes a white skine like a Glove, leaving one blood-red behind it; putting his hand again into the water, it presently broak it, and without any more than once Bathing, taking some of the water home with him, dipping Linnen Cloathes in it, and applying them to his Hand, made it as perfect as ever; from his own mouth.

63. *Mary Lovet* 19. years of Age, Diseased five years with a swelling in her Thighs Legs, Cured by this water,

*Thomas Tildesly* Testis.

64. *Mary Charles* of *Bloor-beath* in *Staffordshire*, having her Leg and Thigh swelled extremely, that she was forced to be Carried for a twelvemonth upon all occasions. Refused both by Physitians and Chirurgeons a past Cure; making use of this water by Drinking and Bathing hath thrown away her Crutches: and is perfectly Cured.

65 Mrs. Jean Reynolds of Mucklestone in Stafford-shire, having a great pain and swelling in her Hip, which being Bathed in this water, drove it down into her Leg with extream pain and swelling there, and fiery redness; but then Drinking and Bathing in it for three dayes, it took away the pain, brought down the swelling, and reduced it to its natural colour again, perfectly Curing her. Taken from her own mouth,

Samuel Gilbert.

66 Andrew Son to Thomas Powel of Drayton Shifnal in Shropshire, having his Legs swel'd as big as his Middle, occasioned by its being formerly wounded under the Calf thereof with the stub of a tree, healed up by a Chirurgeon, but not to the bottom; being brought to the VVell in much pain of his Leg and thigh: Few times washing, or Bathing, broak the swelling, which issued out at one great hole three inches deep, and two in breadth. In a months time afterwards by Bathing and Drinking, brought his Leg to its just proportion, and heal'd the soar. Curing him also of a breaking out all over his body. Taken from his own mouth by

Samuel Gilbert.

67 Edward Bates of Bloor in Stafford-shire, swel'd in his Body that he was not able to stoop: Four times Drinking this water, perfectly Cured him, its operation was by excessive

cessive purging as the nature of his Disease required. Attested by *Francis Daniel* of *Gerards Bromley*.

67. *Margaret Tingle* of *Bloor*, in *Stafford-shire*, having her Legs excessively swel'd. By Drinking the water but once, and Bathing three or four times; quite Cured her, Attested by the foregoing *Francis Daniel*.

68. A man whose name we have forgot came to this VVell this Spring with a Leg swel'd a yard about, Drinking and Bathing thereat, reduced it to the smallness of his other Leg in a small time, witnessed by Captain *John Broughton* of *Whittington*, and Mr. *Lutchwood* of *Blake*, both in the County of *Stafford*.

*Some inward cause, this outward ill produces,  
Nature is apt to find out many sluices  
To disburthen her, from all ill humours,  
And throws them off into those swelling Tumours;  
Which little Bathing here hath tane away.  
Gods power in this water's largely shewn,  
His Goodness, and its virtues let us own.  
Whose force like Esops Ox to the Swelling Toad,  
Crushes the poysonous humour from abode.*

### *Worms.*

69. A young Gentleman of Noble Quality, by two or three dayes Drinking of the water, and once Bathing, killed the VVorms, and carryed them off by sledge, which he had in a great quantity. Affirmed by

*Samuel Gilbert, &c.*  
Many



Many persons not mention'd, were left at the Well with the strangest soar legs that were ever seen; especially one woman that lay several years under Chirurgions hands at *Chester* without help; several of the Kings-evil, of Consumptions, Dropsies, Scurvy, &c. That are in a fair way of being by it speedily Cured.

*A Table of the Contents of the Cures.*

Aches.	page 9.	Head-scal'd. }	25.
Bitings. }	12.	Lameness. }	25.
Bloody-flux. }	12.	Leprosie.	27.
Bruises.	13.	Mother. }	28.
Burnes:	14.	Palsies. }	28.
Collicks.	15.	Relaxations.	
Consumptions.	16.	Rickets. }	29.
Contractions. }	18.	Scurvy. }	29.
Dropsies. }	18.	Soares.	31.
Kings-evil.	20.	Swellings.	33.
French-Pox.	24.	Ulcers, ( <i>vizd</i> ) Soares	
		Worms.	36.

All persons that receive that receive benefit by the water of this Well, either for Internal, or external Distempers, are desired under their own hands, or by another from their own mouths, to leave at *Willowbridge-Lodge* an account thereof; the nature of their Distemper, how they used the Water, what time, and in what quantity, how it operated, and what effects ensued; that there may be the better advantage made of it, from experience for the health of others, which is the only design of what is done, or Writ concerning this Well.

Of Abana, and Pharphar wee,  
 No praises have, nor Jordan see.  
 Famous for being our Saviours Font,  
 What sacred Wit expresses on't.  
 The Bath and Spaw seem out of date,  
 And petties Springs of ebbet Rate.  
 Nay even Holy-Well is crost,  
 Saint Magnus bath its virtues lost.  
 As if their fate were to inforce;  
 The power of this new sound source.  
 For here's a Well doth quickly do,  
 What those did but pretend unto.  
 You need not to Physitians give,  
 Prepare your Bodies to receive.  
 This healing spring that runneth free,  
 The God of Mercies needs no Fee.  
 But in this wonderous water doth,  
 Give Medicine and Physitian both.  
 Outward and inward griefs to ease,  
 Cures old as well as young-Disease.  
 In any Sex, or Age more fit,  
 For th' Authors praise then Poets Wit.  
 You then can Hallelujahs sing,  
 Your voices raise for this Blest-Spring.  
 And let the Echoing woods resound,  
 Blessed be her that first it found.

Let me further add, that it is impossible any person should receive the like advantage of this water, using it at a great distance from the Spring, as those that there make use of it, Because it being full of Volatile spirit which searches out, and into Distempers will Carriage evaporate, though never so carefully made up And its Sanative Oyliness, that heals them, left on the sides of the Vessels in which it is Carried. So that standing in need thereof (that can with any convenience) are advised to Bath in it, as well as Drink it fresh from the Spring, e're it loose its Spirits, or by it

Strand

standing deprived of the Oyile matter that is in it.

Before I take off my Pen, some who prizes those noble kind of Creatures called Horses, may have occasion to thank me for these few Lines, more scribbling in giving a short account of what Diseases this excellent water, both Cured in Horses (*viz*) several of the Pocky Fashions in few dayes.

Some that have had the Stone, and could not Stale. Many of the Riffe.

All sorts of Soares, Swellings, Sprains, Aches in any part.

Soar Eyes near to Blindness; some in a nights space.

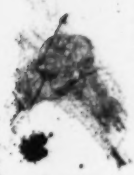
The Names of the Owners of the Horses, or of those that affirmed it, being eye-witnesses, might (or may) be given if thought necessary.

*My muse of late, patting her foot in stirrup,  
And Pegasus by this well Cured, doth Galop.  
With usual speed, ne'r tiring at her rate,  
As others do, whose verses trot in state;  
Or Trammel all their words for ambling Gate.  
whose muse is dated a month at least,  
The slowest motion's from the greatest beast.  
Who strikes at all things, that is not his own;  
Back Vulpans voice, but a face Spanial tone.  
But let such winching Cattle private sick,  
Least publique they appear, have kick for kick,  
Though mine a little harmless Galloway,  
whose work affords no Oates, but lives on Hay.  
Is ready saddled; 'tis but up and ride,  
Yet hath some fancy too in every stride.  
But if unruly grown without a Strap,  
You may soon quiet him, with gentle clap.  
For his small heats were for to let you know,  
From this rare healing Spring what good doth flow.  
To man, or beast, both ready to befriend,  
And runneth free, whose Virtues know no End.*

'Tis thought convenient to avoid Adulteration, or abuse of the Water of this Well, by any means that may be used by many that fetch it thence to sell it, ( and as we here at very dear Rates. ) Least their covetousness should intice them to put a cheat upon any, by selling them either mixed, or common water for that of this Spring. We give notice that there is no price taken for any quantities at the Well: and that the Right Honourable the Lady thereof, is so carefull for persons that cannot come to the VWell, to have it without being Sophisticated; that she will for the future, cause that no water shall be fetched thence, but upon the Bottle, or Vessels: shall be in Wax when Corked up, this Seal, impressed. A Saltier X two Crowned Lyons for Supporters, the Crest a Maremeset. The proper Coat of Armes of her most Hopeful and Lovely Son: The Right Honourable *Digby Lord Gerard*, Baron of *Gerards Bromley*,

F I N I S.

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